

Message Text

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TAGS: CSCE, CVIS, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE AND MULTIPLE VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS

USIA FOR IEU

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

1. GRANTING OF MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS TO RESIDENT AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS APPARENTLY HAS REVEALED "CATCH 22" ATTITUDE HELD BY SOME ELEMENTS OF SOVIET BUREAUCRACY WHO DEAL WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

2. NEWSWEEK CORRESPONDENT FIRST TO ENCOURNTER "CATCH 22" SYNDROME: AFTER REQUESTING HIS MULTIPLE VISA VALID FOR ONE YEAR, HE WAS INFORMED THAT HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT/INTERNAL PASSPORT (VID NA ZHITEL'STVO) WOULD FIRST HAVE BE EXTENDED TO COVER THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF THE ENTRY/EXIT PERMIT. WHILE THIS HAS ADDED ANOTHER STEP TO PROCESS, SUBSEQUENT APPLICANTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN HAVING BOTH DOCUMENTS ISSUED WITHOUT UNDUE DELAYS.

3. NEXT "CATCH" IS STILL UNRESOLVED. TWO CORRESPONDENTS IN NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU WERE INFORMED THAT IN ORDER TO RETAIN THEIR

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MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT PERMITS, THEY MUST SURRENDER THEIR RESIDENCE

PERMITS. UPON FURTHER INQUIRY, THEY WERE TOLD THAT FOR INTERNAL TRAVEL THEY MUST USE THEIR RESIDENCE PERMITS. THIS SITUATION WOULD PUT CORRESPONDENTS IN POTENTIALLY DIFFICULT SITUATION OF NOT BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL INTERNALLY AND DEPART USSR WITHOUT RETURNING TO MOSCOW.

4. UNRESOLVED ASPECT OF THIS SITUATION IS TWOFOLD:

A. CHECKING WITH OTHER RESIDENT CORRESPONDENTS REVEALS THAT INTERNAL TRAVEL HAS NOT ALWAYS REQUIRED USE OF RESIDENCE PERMIT, I.E., IN PAST SOME AMERICAN JOURNALISTS HAVE TRAVELED INTERNALLY USING THEIR OLD (SINGLE) ENTRY/EXIT PERMITS. NO ONE HAS YET ATTEMPTED TO TRAVEL INTERNALLY ON NEW (MULTIPLE) ENTRY/EXIT PERMIT.

B. BOTH NYT CORRESPONDENTS AND EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE HAVE RAISED SUBJECT WITH MFA/PRESS SECTION (PRESS ATTACHE AT A RECEPTION WITH SECOND SECRETARY VOZNIKOV). IN BOTH CASES, MFA OFFICIAL AGREED THAT SITUATION APPEARED RIDICULOUS AND PROMISED TO LOOK INTO MATTER.

5. COMMENT: CONSIDERING RESPONSE OF MFA OFFICIAL, EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS MAY STILL BE CASE OF BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY ON PART OF SOVIETS WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY BE RESOLVED.

6. FYI: MFA HAS REFUSED TO GRANT MULTIPLE PERMITS TO NON-AMERICANS ACCREDITED TO US MEDIA OFFICES, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE CASE OF TWO UK NATIONALS ASSIGNED TO UPI BUREAU. THIS PRACTICE, OF COURSE, ACCORDS WITH US PRACTICE OF GRANTING RECIPROCITY ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY. HOWEVER, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT UPI IN NEW YORK MAY APPROACH DEPARTMENT FOR RELIEF SINCE THE TWO UK EMPLOYEES HAVE PROTESTED THAT THEY ARE MADE TO PAY SOVIET TAXES, AS AMERICANS DO, DESPITE FACT THAT UK-USSR HAVE AGREEMENT ON NON-TAXATION OF RESIDENT NATIONALS. IN CONVERSATION CITED ABOVE, MFA/PRESS OFFICIAL STATED TO PRESS ATTACHE THAT WHEN UK AND USSR REACHED AGREEMENT ON MULTIPLE VISAS, THESE TWO JOURNALISTS WOULD BE INCLUDED DESPITE FACT THEY WORK FOR US CONCERN.

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